

STATEMENT FROM MAYOR DURKAN

"We have missed opportunities for transit before, and we cannot afford to miss this one. As we build a city of the future, we must act to expand access to affordable, reliable transit. The extension of Sound Transit light rail to Ballard and West Seattle is a generational opportunity for Seattle and our entire region to keep building a world-class transit system. We must also take this opportunity to build more affordable housing, and be mindful of how transit can dictate a great deal about our built environment, and determine how equitable growth is.

"As we develop the next generation of transit in Seattle, we must listen to communities on their preference for light rail expansion and understand how an extension would impact the City's transportation system, our natural environment, the built environment, budget, and construction timeline. Community members, Sound Transit, and the City must be able to compare accurate cost estimates and environmental impacts of these options, especially if additional revenue is needed.

"I have expressed interest in a range of options, including a tunnel, in Ballard, West Seattle, and the Chinatown-International District, and have requested that Sound Transit evaluate the range of these extension options, including grade, arterial and tunnel options, so we have sound data to make our decisions that will have an impact on our City and region for decades."